AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A thermometry apparatus comprising:

a housing;

~~a~~ an elongate probe that includes at least one temperature responsive element;

~~an isolation chamber~~ an elongate hollow probe well sized for receiving said probe, said ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well being removable from a cavity of said housing; and

a first switch assembly for determining whether said ~~isolation chamber~~ elongate probe well is attached to said housing, said first switch assembly enabling said thermometry ~~assembly~~ apparatus to operate only if said ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well is ~~attached to~~ provided in the cavity of said housing.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well includes a second switch assembly for determining the presence of a probe in an attached ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said first switch assembly and said second switch assembly are interconnected to one another so as to prevent use of said thermometry apparatus until said ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well is ~~attached to~~ placed in the cavity of said housing and said probe is removed from the ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, including a shroud assembly into which at least a portion of said ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well is inserted, said shroud assembly being attached to said first switch assembly.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said first switch assembly is a mechanical switch that is enabled only when said ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well is inserted into said shroud assembly.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said second switch assembly comprises an optical switch.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said shroud assembly is attached to a circuit board containing processing circuitry, said first switch assembly also being attached to said circuit board.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well provides a fluid tight seal when said ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well is fitted into said housing.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically powering a thermometry apparatus having a probe with at least one temperature sensitive element, said method comprising the steps of:

determining whether ~~an isolation chamber~~ a probe well is ~~attached to~~ installed in a cavity of a thermometry apparatus housing;

automatically determining whether a probe has been removed from said ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well; and

automatically powering said apparatus if said ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well has been determined to be ~~attached to~~ installed in said cavity of the housing and a probe has been removed from the ~~attached isolation chamber~~ installed probe well.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 9, including the step of automatically deactivating said apparatus if said ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well has been removed from the apparatus and automatically turning off said apparatus if said probe is reinserted into said ~~isolation chamber~~ probe well.

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 9, wherein said first determining step is performed using a first switch assembly.

12. (Original) A method according to Claim 9, wherein said second determining step is performed using a second switch assembly.

13. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said shroud assembly comprises a tubular member, said switch assembly being enabled when said probe well is inserted a predetermined distance into said tubular member.

14. (New) A method according to Claim 12, wherein said first switch assembly is provided in a shroud assembly having a cavity into which said probe well is inserted and said second switch assembly is provided on said probe well.

15. (New) A method according to Claim 14, wherein said first switch assembly is enabled when said probe well is inserted a predetermined distance into the cavity of said shroud assembly.